CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring a communication media access schedule of a communication controller in a communication system ~~by means of a bus guardian~~, the communication system comprising a communication media and nodes connected to the communication media, each node having a communication controller ~~and a bus guardian assigned to the communication controller~~, wherein messages are transmitted among the nodes across the communication media based on a cyclic time triggered communication media access scheme, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) providing ~~the bus guardian with~~ a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication; and
   b) using said a priori knowledge ~~of the bus guardian~~ during startup of the communication to distinguish between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of the communication controller.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein allowed deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication are represented by reset information (SR) and by a chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR), wherein ~~the bus guardian monitors~~ the reset information (SR) is monitored and the chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR) during startup of the communication.

3. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein during startup of the communication, ~~the communication controller of one of the nodes transmits a first trigger signal (ARM) to the bus~~

~~guardian assigned to that communication controller, the bus guardian defines~~ at least one expectation window is defined according to said a priori information, ~~the bus guardian monitors~~ an occurrence of further trigger signals within the at least one expectation window being monitored, and ~~the bus guardian distinguishes between~~ an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation being distinguished in dependence on an occurrence of further trigger signals within the at least one expectation window and in dependence on said a priori information.

4. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 22, wherein said first trigger signal (ARM) is transmitted at a beginning of a timeslot in a cycle of the communication media access scheme and a first expectation window is defined at an end of said timeslot in said cycle.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein a further trigger signal (ARM) within a further expectation window defines a beginning of a new cycle of the communication media access scheme.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of a number of further expectation windows is defined at a beginning of subsequent cycles of the communication media access scheme.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said number of further expectation windows is defined according to said a priori data.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said number of further expectation windows is defined according to a parameter (ColdStartMax) defining a maximum number of cycles for which the communication controller is allowed to actively try to establish communication with a further communication controller of one of the

other nodes of the communication system.

9. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein for an allowed deviation from the communication media access schedule, the expectation windows may or may not contain further trigger signals (ARM).

10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein for a valid schedule-reset (SR), there are no further trigger signals (ARM) within the further expectation windows.

11. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 22, wherein for a forbidden deviation from the communication media access schedule, there are no further trigger signals (ARM) outside the expectation windows.

12. (currently amended) A data carrier on which a computer program is stored for execution on one of a computer and a microprocessor, wherein the computer program is programmed to execute the method of claim 1.

13. (currently amended) The data carrier ~~computer program~~ of claim 12, wherein the computer program is stored in one of a read-only-memory, a random-access-memory, and a flash-memory.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) One of a number of nodes connected to a communication media, wherein messages are transmitted among the nodes across the communication media based on a cyclic time triggered communication media access scheme, the node

comprising:

a communication controller; and

~~a bus guardian assigned to said communication controller, said bus guardian having~~ means for monitoring the communication media access schedule of said communication controller,

~~wherein said bus guardian has~~said monitoring means having stored, a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication and ~~said bus guardian has~~ means for making use of said a priori knowledge in order to distinguish between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of said communication controller during startup.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication media; and

nodes connected to said communication media, wherein messages are transmitted among said nodes across said communication media based on a cyclic time triggered communication media access scheme, each node having a communication controller and ~~a bus guardian assigned to the communication controller, the bus guardian~~means for monitoring a communication media access schedule of said communication controller, wherein said ~~bus guardian~~monitoring means has a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication and said ~~bus guardian~~monitoring means has means for making use of said a priori knowledge in order to distinguish between an allowed

deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of said communication controller during startup of the communication.

19. (original) The communication system of claim 18, wherein said a priori knowledge comprises reset information (SR) and a chronological occurrence of said reset information (SR) during startup of the communication, wherein said means for making use of said a priori knowledge monitor said reset information (SR) and said chronological occurrence of said reset information (SR) during startup of the communication in order to distinguish between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of said communication controller.

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein, during startup of the communication, the communication controller of one of the nodes transmits a first trigger signal (ARM) to a bus guardian assigned to that communication controller.